Rehabilitation of sick fertilizer Units

2600. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-items captioned "Government mulls sell off in fertilizer units" which appeared in the Telegraph dated the 7th June, 1998;

(b) whether Government are finalising a decision on re-habilitation of sick units of HFC and FCI in next three to four months as reported; and

(c) whether as holding on operation Government are contemplating utilisation of funds from KRIBHCO for repair/re-start of sick units like Durgapur;

(d) if not, whether Government prefer payment of Income Tax of about Rs. 100 crores a year by KRIBHCO vis-a-vis idle capacity utilisation in the sick unit; and

(e) if so, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The revamp of the Namrup units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) has been approved by the Government at an estimated fresh investment of Rs. 350 crore. The company has taken necessary steps for the launch of the revamp project. The proposals in respect of the remaining units of HFC and Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCI), which are to be submitted to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), will be finalised on considerations of unitwise viability and tie up of the funding arrangements.

(c) to (e) There is no arragement for utilisation of the resources of KRIBHCO for undertakings the work of repairs, replacement and renewal in sick fertilizer units. However, KRIBHCO has formulated a proposals for setting up a modern, standard ammonia/urea plant at Gorakhpur, using the existing infrastructure of the sick FCI unit. A detailed feasibility report for the project has been prepared and the investment proposal is under consideration.

KRIBHCO is also contemplating expansion of its ammonia/urea complex at Hazira. Investment approval for KRIBHCO's participation in a joint venture ammonia/urea fertilizer project in Oman has been accorded.

Proposal to constitute a National Drug Authority

2601. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal to constitute a National Drug Authority to monitor the proliferation of drug market in the country with spurious and substandard and mis-branded drugs was mooted by Government some years back;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in the finalisation of the proposal; and

(c) whether Government propose to constitute such an authority, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The implications of setting up a National Drug Authority are being examined in consultation with technical experts and other concerned Ministries/Departments by the administrative Ministry, i.e. Health & Family Welfare.

ओमान स्थित कम्पनी के साथ उर्वरक संबंधी सौदा

2602. **श्री गोपाल सिंह जी० सोलंकी:**
श्री गोविन्दराम मिरी:

क्या रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने हाल ही में रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय के किसी उच्चस्तरीय प्रतिनिधि मंडल को ओमान भेजा था जिसे ओमान स्थित कम्पनी के एक साथ बड़े समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर करने के लिए अधिकृत किया गया था;